

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4394

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 0602

LIMDIS

FOR ARA/APU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PA, AR, BR, PINS

SUBJECT: SUSPICION OF ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT

1. DURING MY FEBRUARY 12 DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN SAPENA PASTOR (SEPTTEL - NOTAL) HE CONFIRMED THAT ALL THOSE IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH THE NOVEMBER PLOT AGAINST PRESIDENT STROESSNER'S LIFE WERE PARAGUAYAN STUDENTS WHO HAD ATTENDED LA PLATA UNIVERSITY IN ARGENTINA.

2. HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CONTINUED TO BE MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE ATTEMPTS TO UPSET PARAGUAY'S STABILITY MAINLY BY EXILED PARAGUAYANS LIVING IN ARGENTINA AND FINANCED BY ERP FUNDS. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAD KNOWN IN ADVANCE OF THE PLOT BUT HAD NOT WARNED THE PARAGUAYANS.

3. WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE, HE EXPLAINED THAT ARGENTINA WAS EAGER TO GET RID OF STROESSNER BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT WITH HIM OUT OF THE WAY THEY COULD SLOW DOWN PARAGUAYAN-BRAZILIAN COOPERATION ON THE ITAIPU PROJECT. HE SAID THAT
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THE COMMUNISTS, GOA AND THE LOCAL OPPOSITION IN

PARAGUAY WERE UNITED IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE
CONSTRUCTION OF ITAIPU BECAUSE IT BENEFITS BRAZIL AND
PARAGUAY AND MAINTAINS THE STABILITY IN THE AREA.
FOR DIFFERNT REASONS THIS UNHOLY ALLIANCE IS
OUT TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POWERS
TO STOP WORK ON THE PROJECT.
LANDAU

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NNN

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